

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph [0002] with the following rewritten version:

[0002] A pickup truck is sometimes provided with an extra storage space. There are many different types of storage systems for vehicles such as pickup trucks. One of the most common storage system for a pickup trucks such is a rear box that is located in a rear bed portion of the pickup truck. More recently, integrated storage systems have been proposed. For example, U.S. Patent No. 6,129,401 discloses a vehicle storage bin provided in a lower box side panel section behind a rear wheel of a pickup truck. The storage bin of this patent is mounted to the vehicle by a pair of brackets. The brackets are configured to allow the entire storage bin to be pulled or rotated from a closed position to an opening position in which an access opening of the storage bin is exposed. In the storage bin of this patent, the storage bin is also provided with a latch for retaining the storage bin in the closed position. This latch can be provided with an optional locking assembly for locking the storage bin in the closed position.

Please replace the paragraph [0032] with the following rewritten version:

[0001] Still referring to Figures 4-6, the torsion bar 56 is preferably a metal bar that has a first end secured to the central support portion 48 40a of the mounting structure 30 and a second end coupled to the front hinge flange 50b of the mounting bracket 50. In particular, the rearward or first end of the torsion bar 56 has a looped portion in which a fastener is inserted that is threaded into a threaded bore in the bottom bracket 40. The second or forward end of the torsion bar 56 is preferably a hook-shaped portion that passes through the pivot pin 52 and it is inserted into a hole formed in the hinge flange 50b.

Please replace the paragraph [0034] with the following rewritten version:

[0034] Referring to Figures 3, 7 and 8, preferably, an annular gasket 60 is attached to the edges of the wall portions 32a-32e to form a seal between the outer edges of the wall portions 32a-32e and the side panel door 34 when the side panel door 34 is in the ~~close~~ closed position. The gasket 60 or seal is formed of electrometric material or other materials having good weather proofing characteristics. In particular, the gasket 60 is configured and arranged so that when the side panel door 34 is in the close position, the gasket 60 is compressed to form a weather-tight seal. When the side panel door 34 is pivoted to the open position, the gasket 60 will spring back to the original form (uncompressed state) due to the resiliency of the material of the gasket 60. The mounting flange 32f of the compartment 32 is preferably recessed inwardly towards the center of the vehicle body relative to the gasket 60 to ensure a good seal.

Please replace the paragraph [0035] with the following rewritten version:

[0035] Moreover, an additional gasket 62 is preferably formed along the top and rear edges of the compartment 32. In particular, the additional gasket 62 is spaced outwardly relative to the gasket 60 such that the additional gasket 62 forms an additional outer seal along two of the edges of the compartment 32. In other words, when the side panel door 34 is in the ~~close~~ closed position, the additional gasket 62 is compressed between the side panel door 32 and the side panel 22 to form a weather-tight seal therebetween. Preferably, the gasket 62 is constructed of the same material as the gasket 60 or a similar material to the gasket 60.

Please replace the paragraph [0036] with the following rewritten version:

[0036] Referring to Figures 3 and 7, preferably, the compartment 32 has a plurality of ribs 32g that extend along the side wall portions 32b and 32c and the rear wall portion 32e. The ribs 32g form tray support ledges for receiving one or more optional trays or shelves 66. The tray 66 is dimensioned to rest on one of the ribs 32g so that additional accessories can be stored on the shelf above the bottom wall portion 32a. Since the tray 66 merely ~~rest~~ rests on the ribs 32g, the tray 66 can be easily removed as need and/or desired.